

n No 10-300 (Rev 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PG-69-11

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mount Hope

AND/OR COMMON

Gast house; Crestlawn

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1 Cheverly Circle

CITY, TOWN

Cheverly

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE

24

COUNTY

Prince George's

CODE

033

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Heirs of Fred W. Gast

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Contact through Mayor Robert W. O'Connor, 6401 Forest Road

CITY, TOWN

Cheverly

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

20785

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

14735 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland 20870

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mount Hope is located at Number 1 Cheverly Circle just east of Cheverly Avenue, the main north-south thoroughfare in Cheverly, Maryland. It stands on a two-acre lot on a prominent ridge in central Cheverly facing south with a view, now somewhat obscured, of northeast Washington, D. C.

The Town of Cheverly, founded in 1918 and incorporated in 1931, is a residential suburb of Washington. It is 1.2 square miles in extent and has some 8,000 inhabitants. The Town occupies much of the original 716-acre tobacco plantation of Fielder Magruder, Jr., who built Mount Hope circa 1839. The house is the town symbol appearing on the official town seal and town flag.

The main part of the two-story, five-bay frame house was built in two stages, the three-bay west half in the 1830's and the two-bay addition to the east in the 1860's. The 20 x 20 foot one-story wing, now containing a circa 1950 kitchen, appears to date from the 1830's as well.

There is some evidence that a house stood here earlier, possibly by the late 18th century. There is a 20 x 20 foot, stone cellar under the northeast corner of the house, adjacent to the crawl space under the kitchen, which appears to be from an earlier building. A stone outbuilding, probably a dairy, stands just behind the house. It has walls two feet thick and is ventilated; it appears to date from the late 18th century.

The south facade of the house has a central entrance flanked by four French doors with transoms above installed in the 1920's. The doorway consists of a door with two glass panels, transom, and sidelights. In all of these openings is one light of thick, beveled glass, added circa 1920. On the second floor are five windows with six-over-six light sash. The one-story porch which extends across the entire front was added as part of Robert Marshall's renovations of 1919-1922 (See #8). The gable roof has a very shallow pitch and is covered with asphalt shingles.

The west gable end has two exterior chimneys, while the east has two interior ones. All are of stuccoed brick. Two small, four-light windows flank the southwest chimney on the first floor. The northwest chimney has a doorway to the north and a large square window containing one sheet of glass to the south. In the east end there is a 6/6 sash window to the north of the southeast chimney and a small, horizontal stained-glass window with a "C" in the center to the south. The latter was put in by Marshall, and the "C" stands for Crestlawn, his name for the house. There are no windows above the first story on the gable ends.

The north facade has had several narrow, one-story additions made to it, to provide bathrooms and a small kitchen. There are five windows on the second floor. The house is covered with clapboard for the most part, with aluminum siding on the east, and some asphalt siding on the rear (north).

The kitchen wing joins the house at the northeast half of the east gable end. It has two 6/6 sash windows on the south, a door on the east, and two windows on the north.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1839; 1860's; 1919 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Fielder Magruder, Jr.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Hope is the focal point of the town of Cheverly, a suburb of Washington, D.C. founded in 1918. It is a frame farmhouse built circa 1839 and added to in the 1860's by Fielder Magruder, Jr., member of the prominent Magruder family who first settled in Maryland in 1652.<sup>1</sup> Part of the house sits on the stone foundations of an earlier structure, and a possibly circa 1800 outbuilding also remains on the property.

The house was renovated from 1919 to 1922, as the home and office of Robert Marshall, founder of Cheverly. He lived here until 1929. Cheverly's first mayor owned Mount Hope from 1941 to 1977. The house is the official town symbol and appears on the town seal and the town flag.

Fielder Magruder built his house facing south on a prominent ridge over Washington, a 13-acre portion of the 500-acre, 1686 land grant Hudson's Range. Although the precise chain of ownership of the 13-acre tract is not certain, it was owned in 1836 by U.S. Senator Joseph Kent, the former Governor of Maryland<sup>2</sup>, who acquired parts of Hudson's Range once owned by Benjamin Stoddert, first Secretary of the Navy and builder of nearby Beall's Pleasure.<sup>3</sup>

Architectural evidence suggests Mount Hope was built on the foundations of a late 18th/early 19th century structure of undetermined origin. Fielder Magruder, Jr. acquired the 13 acres known as "Part of Hudson's Range" from Joseph Kent in August 1836,<sup>4</sup> paid him again for the same tract in June 1837,<sup>5</sup> and immediately sold the land to Howerton Cross,<sup>6</sup> who sold it back to Magruder in November 1838 as part of a 217-acre transaction which included two adjacent tracts, the 129-acre parcel known as Mithcell's Adventure and 75 acres of Crawford's Adventure and Columbia.<sup>7</sup>

Magruder was shown as a head of household in the 1840 Federal Census of the Bladensburg District in Prince George's County,<sup>8</sup> suggesting he had already settled on the land, and in the 1842 Tax Assessment the name Mount Hope is first applied to the tract, then listed at 200 acres.<sup>9</sup> Magruder gradually acquired additional property, and by 1861 Mount Hope consisted of 639 acres.<sup>10</sup> The 1860 Federal Census of 1870 indicate the main house was extensively modified and enlarged in the late 1860's, probably to accomodate seven blacks shown as residing in the dwelling in addition to Magruder and his wife, Ann.<sup>12</sup> By 1888, the year of Magruder's death, Mount Hope consisted of 716 acres.<sup>13</sup> In his will of December 16, 1886, proven on May 22, 1888, he left the home place consisting of "the tract of land which I purchased of Howardin [sic] Cross, now deceased, and upon which I now reside, being two hundred and seven (207) acres, more or less" to Ann T. G. Magruder, his wife.<sup>14</sup> As they were childless, she left the property at her death in 1894 to her nephew, George Beall Sheriff.<sup>15</sup>

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Mount Hope  
Prince George's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

In a deed of 30 January 1919,<sup>16</sup> Sheriff's heirs sold "the Fielder Magruder tract," surveyed in November 1918 and found to consist of 193½ acres, to the late Robert Marshall, an Ohio land developer and former stockbroker. Marshall named his purchase Cheverly and used Mount Hope, renamed "Crestlawn", as his residence and field office from 1919 to 1929 while he was building the Town of Cheverly. Around the house, on which he spent \$8,640 in a renovation and modernization, Marshall preserved a 1.97 acre lot, designating it No. 1 Cheverly Circle.<sup>17</sup>

In 1931, when the Town of Cheverly was incorporated, the first Mayor, the late Fred W. Gast, chose Mount Hope as a symbol to appear on the official town seal, which continues in use.<sup>18</sup> In 1941 Gast purchased the property which had been in the hands of a number of owners during the thirties.<sup>19</sup> He left it to his children after his death in March 1977. The Town of Cheverly is presently attempting to acquire the property from the Gast heirs to be preserved as a town historic site.

<sup>1</sup>Bellamy, Raymond W., Jr., "Mount Hope: A Magruder Plantation Home and a Town Symbol, 1977 Yearbook of the American Clan Gregor Society Containing the Proceedings of the 1976 Annual Gathering (Washington, D.C.: American Clan Gregor Society, 1977), p. 64.

<sup>2</sup>Prince George's County Land Records: AB#10/400; cf. AB#11/217 and 213; Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland (MHR).

<sup>3</sup>Prince George's County Land Records: AB#10/394, MHR.

<sup>4</sup>Prince George's County Land Records: AB#10/400, MHR.

<sup>5</sup>Prince George's County Land Records: AB#11/217, MHR.

<sup>6</sup>Prince George's County Land Records: AB#11/213, MHR.

<sup>7</sup>Prince George's County Land Records: AB#12/62, MHR.

<sup>8</sup>Sixth Federal Census (1840), M704, Roll 169, Prince George's County, Bladensburg District, Prince George's County Library, Oxon Hill Branch.

<sup>9</sup>Prince George's County Tax Assessment, 1842, Bladensburg Second District, Account #11042, MHR.

Form No. 10-300a  
(Rev. 10-74)

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Mount Hope  
Prince George's County  
Maryland

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

<sup>10</sup>Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1842, Bladensburg Second District, Account #11047, MHR.

<sup>11</sup>Eighth Federal Census (1860), M653, Roll 485, Prince George's County, Bladensburg District, Prince George's County Library, Oxon Hill Branch.

<sup>12</sup>Ninth Federal Census (1870), M593, Roll 592, Prince George's County, Bladensburg District, Prince George's County Library, Oxon Hill Branch.

<sup>13</sup>Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1888, Bladensburg Second District, Account #12216, MHR.

<sup>14</sup>Prince George's County Wills: WAJ JR. #1/525, MHR.

<sup>15</sup>Prince George's County Wills: JBP#1/175, MHR.

<sup>16</sup>Prince George's County Land Records: 137/466, Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland (PGCC).

<sup>17</sup>Prince George's County Land Records: Plat Book RNR#2, Plat 38, PGCC. Bellamy, p. 65. H.C. Ball, Letter of August 11, 1919, Town of Cheverly Archives, Cheverly, Maryland.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

<sup>19</sup>Prince George's County Land Records: 620/188, PGCC. See also 472/455; 418/51; 385/130; and 305/304.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**PRIMARY SOURCESHall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.Prince George's County Land Records.  
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.97 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The house stands on Lot 19, Block Eye, Section 1 of Cheverly, Maryland.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

1 km

Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr., Town Historian/Member

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Town of Cheverly / P.G. County Committee of Maryland

March 1978

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Historical Trust

TELEPHONE (Off) 688-7979

Belmar, 2819 Cheverly Avenue

(Home) 773-5439

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cheverly

Maryland 20785

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMMount Hope  
Prince George's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 4

## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1842, 1861, 1888.

Prince George's County Wills.

Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Prince George's County Land Records

Prince George's County Memorial Library, Oxon Hill Branch, Oxon Hill, Maryland

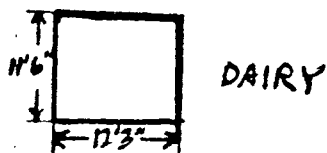
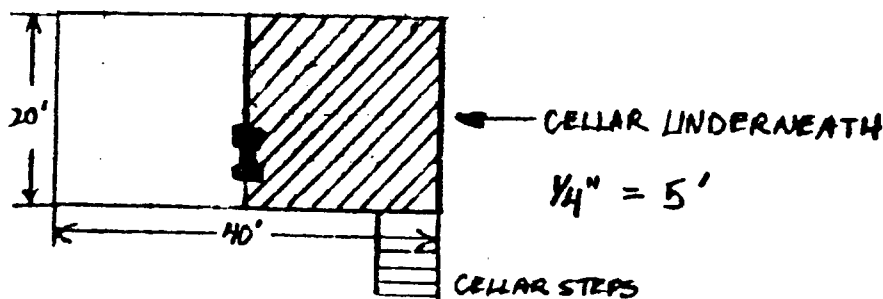
Sixth Federal Census (1840) - M 704, Roll 169.

Eighth Federal Census (1860) - M 653, Roll 485.

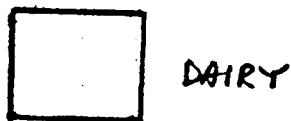
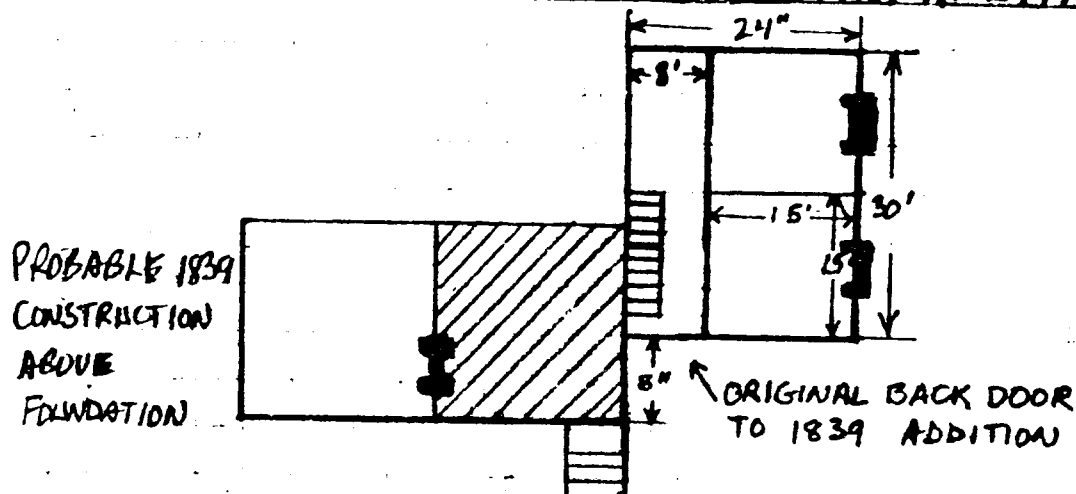
Ninth Federal Census - M 593, Roll 592.

Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861 in: Van Horn, R. Lee,  
Out of the Past, Prince George's County Historical Society, Riverdale, Md., 1976.Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Prince George's,  
Maryland. Philadelphia: C.M. Hopkins, 1878. Prince George's County  
Historical Society, Riverdale, Maryland, 1975. p. 15.Town of Cheverly, Archives, Cheverly, Maryland.Letter of H.C. Ball, Builder, August 11, 1919 (certifies he remodeled a  
residence for Mr. Robert Marshall at Crestlawn, Cheverly, Maryland, at a cost  
of \$8,640.13).SECONDARY SOURCESBellamy, Raymond W., Jr. "Mount Hope: A Magruder Plantation Home and a Town  
Symbol." 1977 Yearbook of the American Clan Gregor Society Containing the  
Proceedings of the 1976 Annual Gathering. Washington, D.C.: American Clan Gregor  
Society, 1977.

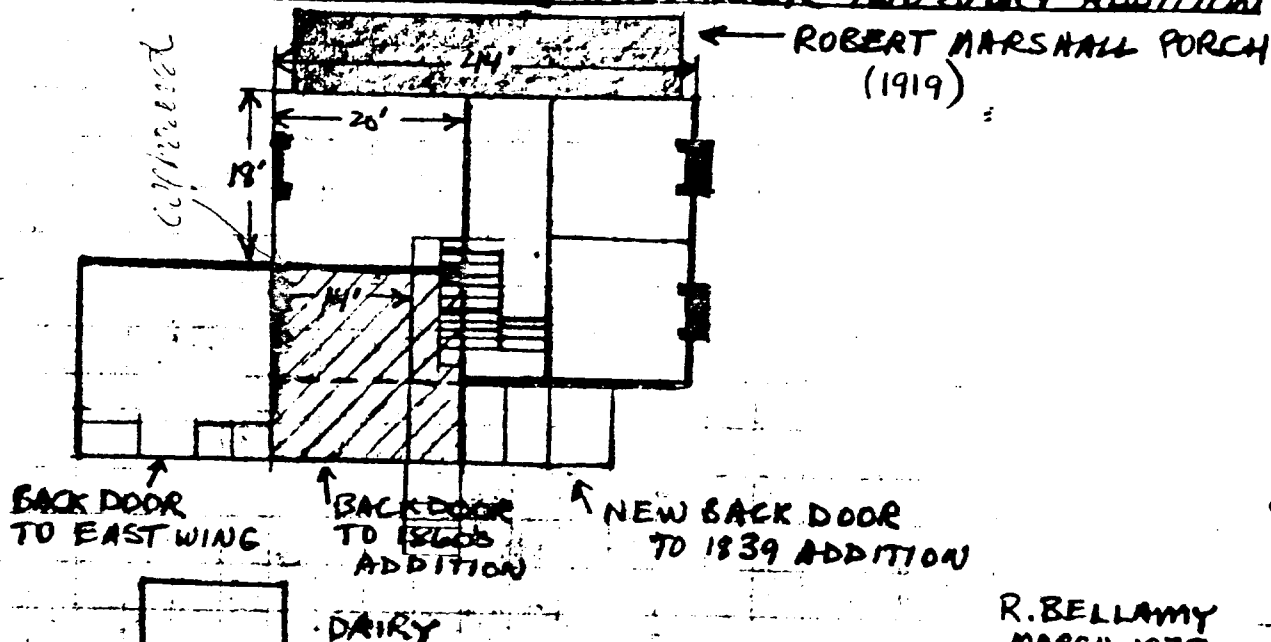
**MOUNT  
HOPE**  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
(FIRST FLOOR PLAN)



**2. CA. 1839 FIELDER MAGRUDER TWO STORY ADDITION**



**3. CA. LATE 1860'S FIELDER MAGRUDER TWO STORY ADDITION**



(4) *Leptocarpus Dryopteridis*

P.G. County Survey # 69-11 Date 1839  
Building Name Mt. Hope  
Location 1 Cheverly Circle, Cheverly, Maryland  
Open to Public      yes      ☒      no

Mt. Hope is probably the last remaining frame antebellum plantation house inside the Beltway in Prince George's County. The main house is a two-story five-bay frame structure with four chimneys, the western two chimneys being exterior. The house was constructed in two stages: the western three bays in the 1830's, the eastern two bays in the late 1860's. The one story wing to the east of the main house appears to have been constructed contemporaneously with the earlier west section of the main house. Foundations of an earlier structure have apparently been incorporated into the building of Mt. Hope, for eighteenth century stone foundations have been detected under the one story wing and parts of the main house; a small stone outbuilding just north of the house also dates from this earlier period.

Mt. Hope was built by Fielder Magruder Jr., who purchased the property between 1836 and 1838. By 1840, he was already living in the new house. The name Mt. Hope was associated with it as early as 1842.

Magruder died in 1888, and Mt. Hope passed through his widow to her heirs; it was sold by them in 1919 to a land developer who used the house as both residence and field office while building the town of Cheverly. Later Mt. Hope became the home of Cheverly's first mayor, and today appears as Cheverly's symbol on the official Town Seal.

# Cheverly



A Brief Bicentennial History-1976

The Town of Cheverly, Maryland -  
Plantation to Planned Community

by

Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr.,  
 Town Historian  
 Bicentennial Year, 1976

Cheverly, Maryland has been characterized by some as a lovely island of green in a sea of dual lane highways and by others as a "jewel" among planned communities. Whatever its image in the Washington metropolitan area, it exists today because of concerned and caring people. Its civic-minded residents today are maintaining a heritage established almost sixty years ago by its founder, Robert Marshall, an Ohio investor and stockbroker. He came to Washington during World War I with a vision, years ahead of his time, of creating a restricted, carefully planned residential community convenient to the city by rail and road but retaining the beauty of its natural surroundings through saving as many of its trees as possible and designing its streets to follow the rolling contours of the land.

Robert Marshall acquired most of what makes up residential Cheverly from 1918 to 1926 in a series of purchases from several owners of what was then forest and farmland and had once been a tobacco plantation called Mount Hope. The land on which Cheverly is situated in the Beaver Dam Creek watershed was originally the home of the Anacostia Indians who farmed and hunted the tree-covered land and fished the sparkling waters of the Anacostia River and its tributaries. They were displaced by the colonial planters who acquired the land as grants from Charles, Third Lord Baltimore in 1685 and 1686, ten years before this part of Prince George's County was formed from Charles County.

Most of what is now Cheverly was formerly part of three land grants: Cranford, His Adventure (1685), a 500-acre tract granted to a James Cranford which included the northern part of the town down to about Forest Road; Hudson's Range (1686), a 500-acre tract granted to a William Hudson which included most of the southern part of the town; and Whitlentine (1685), a 300-acre tract granted to a Christopher Thompson which included the southern tip of Cheverly. All through the 18th and early 19th centuries, these tracts or parts of them changed hands many times (so many times, in fact, that Cranford, His Adventure became known as Crawford's Adventure). The lively dealing in land of this period reflected the still bustling nature of the tobacco-based plantation economy of the county with its social center at Marlboro and its main port at Bladensburg.

Between 1820 and 1825, a planter named Fielder Magruder (1780-1840) acquired about 340 acres of Crawford's Adventure, Hudson's Range, and Whitlentine. Fielder Magruder, as a member

of that prominent Maryland family, could trace his ancestry in Maryland back five generations to Alexander Magruder, a Highland Scot of the Clan Gregor who came to Maryland in 1652. Fielder's grandfather, the first Magruder to settle in the local area, was Captain Samuel Magruder (1708-1790). He had been commander of a company of the Prince George's County Foot Militia in 1748 and 1749 and had acquired a 240 acre plantation called Brotherhood Enlarged located just across Beaver Dam Creek and north of the present day Fourth Ward of Cheverly. This tract was originally part of another 1685 land grant called Mt. Arrarat and another grant of 1714 called Brotherhood. Samuel Magruder's son Haswell (1736-1811) had the land resurveyed in 1785 and found it contained additional land including part of Mt. Arrarat, hence the name Brotherhood Enlarged. Haswell Magruder, who served during the Revolution as the local (New Scotland Hundred) constable or sheriff, left the eastern half of this plantation to Fielder, one of his three sons, and the other or western half to his second wife Ann with the remainder coming to Fielder after her death. Fielder probably lived on the eastern half of the plantation, at least until his stepmother's death, in a house called Union Valley which stood until well into the 20th century on a hill across from the present-day Giant Warehouse on Sheriff Road. His stepmother lived in the family homestead called Old Orchard which also stood well into the 20th century and was located on the east side of Columbia Park Road just south of Prince George's Country Club. According to tax assessments of the time, Fielder Magruder had 13 slaves and by the time of his death in 1840 had expanded his holdings to 855 acres. He was buried at Old Orchard in the family cemetery which was later moved to Ft. Lincoln. His widow Matilda lived on at Old Orchard until her death in 1849, the old house acquiring the name Widow's Dower. Fielder's son Lewis and his large family lived at Widow's Dower and according to tax records changed its name again to Prospect Hill. One of his sons, William Pinkney Magruder (1856-1939), gave Magruder Park to Hyattsville and at the time of his death was the largest landowner in the county. Another of Fielder's sons, Edward Magruder, and his family lived at Union Valley. A third son, William Thomas Magruder was a professional soldier who graduated from West Point in 1850. He resigned his commission with the U.S. Army in October, 1862 and joined the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. He died in Pickett's charge at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863.

Fielder Magruder's oldest son, Fielder, Jr. (1814-1888) married Ann Young of Washington, D.C. in 1835 and lived in the plantation house which still stands on a ridge in the center of Cheverly at no. 1 Cheverly Circle. This 12 room ante bellum home is on our Town Seal and was carefully restored by Cheverly's founder and first resident, Robert Marshall. He called it Crestlawn and lived there from 1919 to 1929. Today, the Fielder Magruder house is owned by Fred Gast, Cheverly's first mayor (1931-1937). Its date of construction is uncertain although Mr. Marshall was told in 1918 by the heirs of Fielder, Jr. who sold him the property that it was probably built about 1815. Since the Magruders do not appear to have come into possession of this part of Cheverly until at least

1831, this date, if valid, would suggest that the house might have been built by a previous owner and also place construction just after the British marched through the area to and from their victory at the Battle of Bladensburg in August, 1814. The British are believed to have used the Magruder (now called the Cheverly) spring on the lower end of Cheverly Avenue on their way to the battle and the Crawford Spring, located in the woods behind the Cheverly Professional Buildings, on their way back to their ships.

Regardless of when and by whom the Fielder Magruder house was built, it was Fielder Magruder, Jr.'s residence, according to 1861 and 1878 maps of the area. Tax records from 1842 through 1896 show that he called it Mount Hope. His property holdings, including Mount Hope plantation which expanded from 200 acres in 1842 to 716 acres in 1888, amounted by that year to 843 acres, making him one of the largest property owners in the county at that time. Included in these holdings as early as 1841 was 150 acres of Little Deane, a 1895 land grant which today encompasses the Fourth Ward which was added to Cheverly in 1931 at the time of incorporation.

With the exhaustion of tobacco land by the middle of the 19th century and the death of the slave-based agrarian economy of the area after the Civil War, a general agricultural depression and abandoned farmland became characteristic of much of Prince George's County during the rest of the century. Many fields began to grow up with weeds and then with locust and scrub pine. Although prosperous farmers like Fielder Magruder could continue to survive with general farming, the old days of the ante bellum plantation were no more. Also affecting his property during this period was the coming of the railroad. The Baltimore and Potomac (now the CONRAIL) tracks passed through all three of the original land grants and split Fielder's holdings when it opened to traffic in 1872. It provided one of Robert Marshall's original selling points for Cheverly, ten cents and 12 minutes to downtown Washington, D.C.

Fielder Magruder, Jr. died childless in 1888 and was buried at Old Orchard. After his wife Ann died in 1894, approximately 193 acres of farmland and the house were left, according to the terms of his will, to his sister Matilda and her husband, Dionysius Sheriff. Their heirs sold the house and land to Mr. Marshall in August, 1918 and it was this initial purchase--later expanded to some 500 acres in subsequent purchases--that Mr. Marshall developed into Cheverly. He adopted the name, which has uncertain origins, from Cheverly Gardens, an adjoining subdivision of 92 acres not originally part of Cheverly, which had been established by a Mr. Mendenhall in the early part of the century.

Cheverly under Robert Marshall saw its first lot sold to Charles Henke of Tuxedo on July 4, 1919, its first street paved by October, 1920 (this was the lower 2500 feet of Cheverly Avenue, then called La Blond Avenue after the Cincinnati machine tool manufacturer who financed Mr. Marshall), its first new home built by May, 1921 (for Fred W. Nickel on the lower end of Bellevue Avenue), its first street lights installed in 1922 (with power supplied from a DELCO plant located in a shed behind the Fielder Magruder house), its first school completed in April, 1923 (the two-room Cheverly-Tuxedo School), all of

Cheverly Avenue paved by November 1923 and its first "city" water and power installed in 1925. Mr. Marshall lost control of the Washington Suburban Realty Company in 1927 after an abortive effort in 1926 to make the eastern portion of Forest Road (then called Marshall Road) into a grand avenue leading all the way to Landover Road (now Route 202) to be used as a major approach to Prince George's Country Club. It was then called Beaver Dam Country Club and had opened in 1923. Mr. Marshall was one of thirty owners of the Club and used its proximity to Cheverly as a selling feature for the Cheverly Properties. Marshall Road was never paved and for many years the curb and gutter and street light posts served as a reminder of Mr. Marshall's mistake.

Shortly after Harry Wardman acquired control of Cheverly from the Washington Suburban Realty Company in August 1929, the depression hit and within a year Wardman had gone bankrupt. Cheverly, which then consisted of some 74 homes, was confronted with a lot auction by Mr. Wardman's creditors with the attendant bad publicity and reduction in property values. The auction was held in early May 1931 at a time when its citizens had just voted 85 to 8 on April 18, 1931 for incorporation after it had become clear that the interest of homeowners could not be protected adequately by the Citizens Association established in 1926.

The thirties were a difficult time for Cheverly and it was only due to the dedication and hard work of the civic-minded residents led by Mayor Fred Gast and J. Raymond Fletcher (Mayor 1937-1945) that it survived. Despite economic constraints and a limited tax base at the time, streets were substantially improved and street lights repaired. Joint efforts by the citizenry were characteristic of the period and were exemplified by the establishment of the American Legion Park in the center of town in 1935 in a landscaping effort directed by Raymond W. Bellamy, Sr., an early associate of Mr. Marshall. The Bellamy Gardens just north of Legion Park which he developed over a forty year period from 1927 to 1967 are only one among many lovely gardens gracing Cheverly homes.

With the improvement of the economy as a result of World War II, Cheverly burgeoned rapidly in the forties and fifties under leadership of James E. Conover (Mayor 1945-1947), Dr. Edward A. Saloom (Mayor 1947-1953) and Lawrence A. Yates (Mayor 1953-1959) into the progressive, peaceful and pleasant community it remains today. This period saw the establishment of Cheverly Community Church (1942) and St. Ambrose Catholic School and Church (1951), the revision of the Town Charter (1951), an increase in the number of wards from four to the present six (1951), the first town newsletter in June 1953, the acquisition of the ten acre Town Park from the Magruder heirs in 1955, construction of Happy Acres School (1955), codification of the Town Ordinances in May 1957, the expansion of Cheverly by one-third with the annexation of the Cheverly Industrial Park in

1958 and in the fifties the encirclement of Cheverly by dual highways.

The sixties and seventies, under the leadership of Dr. Laurence N. Woodworth (Mayor 1959-1965), Terrell M. Wertz (Mayor 1965-1970), Thomas W. Kerley (Mayor 1970-1974) and Robert O'Connor (Mayor 1974- ), have been characterized by change as the pressure of population growth and commercial development in the surrounding area has caused a variety of problems. Highlights of this period were the first Cheverly Day Parade in July 1966, hiring the first full-time Town Administrator in February 1967 and dedication of the Cheverly Community Center in the Town Park in June 1973. Cheverly, now 1.2 square miles in extent, has been able to retain its identity and territorial integrity during this period because Cheverly citizens, who now number about 8000, care deeply about their families, their homes and their community and draw together in adversity. This spirit of cooperation and togetherness was never better demonstrated than in this bi-centennial year with the biggest and best of the eleven annual parades and festivities held to date.

The rest of the decade and the century promises to be a time of challenge to Cheverly citizens determined to maintain the character of their little island of green. METRO will cause more change which hopefully will be the change which leads to an improved lifestyle rather than the change which leads to deterioration. It's up to us who love our Town to maintain Robert Marshall's vision of an attractive and peaceful residential community, a vision which continues to shine brightly after almost 60 years.

Susan Maguider House - foundations  
~~located~~ just south of Cherley Town Park

Ray Bellamy  
 2819 Cherley Ave.  
 Cherley, Md. 20785  
 Home 773-5439  
 Office 688-7979

## MOUNT HOPE - MAGRUDER PLANTATION HOME

## A Town Symbol

By Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr.  
Cheverly Town Historian  
Bicentennial Year 1976

(1926 photograph from the Cheverly  
Town Archives - Taken by Robert  
Marshall, Founder of Cheverly)

Mount Hope, 1 Cheverly Circle, Cheverly, Maryland, is the former plantation home of Fielder Magruder, Jr. (1814-1888) and has been owned by Cheverly's first mayor, Fred W. Gast, since the late 1930s. Part of the house is believed to date from about 1815, according to a 1923 statement of Robert Marshall, who founded Cheverly in 1918. Extensive modifications and additions were made by Fielder Magruder, Jr. in the early 1840s, according according to his grand niece, Mrs. Lillie Magruder Mansfield. Mount Hope is a typical Maryland farm house of the pre-Civil War period according to architectural historians. It has two stories with a one-story wing, 12 rooms, including 6 bedrooms and is approximately 65 x 30 feet. Of frame construction, it has weatherboard siding, painted brown, a front porch, probably added or modified later, four external brick chimneys and a metal roof.

Mount Hope, as it was called by Fielder Magruder, Jr., was renamed Crestlawn by Cheverly's founder, Mr. Marshall, who used it as his residence from 1919 to 1929. It was chosen in 1931, the year of Cheverly's incorporation as a town, by Mr. Gast, Cheverly's first mayor (1931-1937), as the symbol on the Cheverly Town Seal. The house stands facing south on a prominent ridge in central Cheverly, a residential suburb of Washington, D. C. of 1.2 square miles and some 8,000 inhabitants. It overlooks the Cheverly Town Park to the east and an adjacent proposed park area. The proposed park area includes the foundations of a later Magruder home long gone from the scene, called Prospect Hill. Nearby is the site of a Prohibition-era still discovered by Mr. Marshall in 1921 (Cheverly is known for its multitude of springs) and a tributary of Beaver Dam Creek from which ice was taken in the winter for storage in the stone ice house which still stands behind Mount Hope. Remains of an old slave cabin can be found on town property about 200 yards to the rear and north of the house.

Mount Hope was the center of Fielder Magruder, Jr.'s 716 acre tobacco plantation and farm, the house standing on the 1686 land grant called Hudson's Range and the property including parts of another land grant to the north called Cranford, his Adventure (1685) (later known as Crawford's Adventure) and parts of two other land grants to the south called Whittlentine (1685), and Little Deane (1695). These tracts, or parts of them, changed hands many times in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the lively dealing in land of the time reflecting the still bustling nature of the tobacco-based plantation economy of Prince George's County with its main port at . . . Bladensburg. Some of these landowners included the Reverend Hugh Conn, pastor (1718-1752) of the second Presbyterian church to be established in the county (the Eastern Branch Church located near Garrison's Landing, later to become known as Bladensburg); Richard Henderson and Adam Craig, local land speculators of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century; Benjamin Stoddert, first Secretary of the Navy and builder in 1795 of nearby Beaver Dam, later to be known as Beall's pleasure, and childhood home of Brice Claggett, Chairman of the Maryland Historical Trust; and Richard Tasker Lowndes, member of the prominent family of Bladensburg merchants of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Fielder Magruder, Jr. was the seventh generation Magruder in Maryland, tracing his line back through Fielder, Sr.<sup>6</sup>, Haswell<sup>5</sup>, Captain Samuel<sup>4</sup>, Samuel, Jr.<sup>3</sup>, Captain Samuel<sup>2</sup> to Alexander, a Highland Scot of the Clan Gregor who came to Maryland in 1652. Magruder's great-grandfather, Captain Samuel (1708-1790) is believed to have been the first Magruder to settle in the Cheverly area, living, according to the legendary Clan Gregor historian, the late Caleb Clarke Magruder, on a 240-acre plantation called Brotherhood located just across Beaver Dam Creek to the east of Mount Hope. Captain Samuel's son Haswell (1756-1811), Constable of New Scotland Hundred from 1777 to 1780 during the American Revolution, had the tract resurveyed in 1785, found it contained part of another tract called Mt. Arrarat and patented it in 1789 as Brotherhood Enlarged. His son, Fielder, Sr. (1780-1840), was willed this property and added to it other land including 340 acres of Crawford's Adventure, Hudson's Range and Whittlentine (within what is now Cheverly) which he acquired between 1820 and 1825. When he died intestate in 1840, his heirs divided the 855 acres he owned. The oldest son, Fielder, Jr. received 200 acres which he called Mount Hope, adding it to 150 acres he already owned of the Little Deane tract and 13½ acres of Crawford's Adventure. He soon acquired his younger brother William's 71 acres in the lower part of what is now Cheverly and William went on to graduate from West Point in 1850, serve in the U.S. Cavalry until 1862, resign his commission and die for the Confederacy

- 3 -

in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg in 1863. Fielder, Jr. continued to acquire land even after the drastic changes in the previously slave-based agricultural economy of the area after the Civil War. He eventually possessed, at the time of his death in 1888, 843 acres, including 716 acres of Mount Hope.

According to Fielder Magruder, Jr.'s will, written in 1886 and proven in 1888, he died childless, leaving his real and personal property to his wife, Ann Truman Greenfield Young. His real property was to be divided among a long list of relatives after her death and after this occurred in 1894, according to the terms of his will, he left Mount Hope and approximately 200 acres of the farm to his sister, Matilda, and her husband, Dionysius T. Sheriff. According to tax assessment records, Sheriff's brother, George Beall Sheriff, had acquired the property by 1896. In 1918, George Sheriff's son, Philip Hill Sheriff, sold the house and property which consisted, according to a 1918 survey, of 193½ acres to Robert Marshall, founder of Cheverly. Marshall designed Cheverly Circle around the house, spent \$8,640 in 1919 to restore the house and renamed it and the surrounding two acres Crestlawn, a suggestion of his wife Dena. They used it as their residence from 1919 until they departed Cheverly in 1929. The home belonged briefly to Harry Wardman, the developer who bought out the owners of Cheverly in August 1929 and went bankrupt after the depression. To save the interests of the home owners of Cheverly during this period, public spirited citizens of Cheverly led by Mr. Gast were successful in incorporating the town on April 18, 1931 and Mr. Gast had the Fielder Magruder house adopted as the town symbol that year. The old house was subsequently occupied by a variety of tenants until acquired by Mr. Gast at tax sale in the late thirties and remains his property. His son, John, the current resident, has lived in the house since 1950.

Mount Hope has been added to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission Historic Site Map of Prince George's County by Senior County Historian, Mr. John Walton, Jr. and is being proposed for inclusion in the Maryland Historic Sites Inventory being prepared by the Maryland Historical Trust. The Town of Cheverly has under consideration a proposal to acquire Mount Hope and maintain it as a Town Historic Site, housing a museum, library and Senior Citizen's Center.

Easement

1/6/69-11

P. 11

1700855304

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. PLACE			
COMMON NAME: <u>MOUNT HOPE</u>			
AND/OR HISTORIC: <u>Union Valley</u>			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>1 Cheverly Circle</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Cheverly</u>			
STATE: <u>Maryland</u>		COUNTY: <u>Prince George's</u>	
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP	STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: <u>John P. Gast</u>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>1 Cheverly Circle</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Cheverly</u>		STATE: <u>Maryland</u>	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <u>Prince George's County Courthouse</u>			
STREET AND NUMBER: _____			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Upper Marlboro</u>		STATE: <u>Maryland</u>	
6. FIELD REAPPRAISAL OF CEN. AT NEED (Book & Pg. #): _____			
7. FIELD REAPPRAISAL OF CEN. AT NEED (Book & Pg. #): _____			
TITLE OF SURVEY: <u>None</u>			
DATE OF SURVEY: _____			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
STREET AND NUMBER: _____			
CITY OR TOWN: _____		STATE: _____	

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered				
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						

The house is a two story, frame structure, built in three sections. The south end has double external chimneys with stone foundations and brick stacks. This wing was originally a three bay, end hall, double parlor structure; the doorway has top and sidelights.

The two bay, two story north wing was added later; it gives the present house a central hall configuration. There are double internal chimneys at this end.

To the north of this wing is a one story wing that may originally have been a separate kitchen.

The house has had the roof changed; the present roof has a lower pitch. The present front porch across the entire facade has been added since 1920; it replaces a small porch with shed roof.

Behind the house is a one story, stone meat house.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Date)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century	
<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century		
(Applicable to History)			
SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PG: 6-11

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION:

M-NCPPC

DATE:

11 Mar 74

STREET AND NUMBER:

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Silver Spring

STATE:

Maryland

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature





0.8 MI. TO INTERSTATE 495  
ANNAPOLIS 21 MI

(LANHAM)  
5661 IV NE

UPPER MARLBORO 11 MI  
LARGO 3.4 MI

4308

PG:69-11



















Mount Hope  
P.C. Count

Front - south facade

April 1978

Reg at MHT

PG 699/1



Mount Hope  
D.C. County  
End. South facade  
April 1978  
Neg at MHT.

PG 6911



Mount Hope  
P.B. Co.  
Northwest facade  
April 1918  
Neg at MHT.

P6 69-11



Mount Hope  
S.B. Co.

PG 69:11

Southwest facade

April 1978

Reg at MHT.



NAME # 69-11 UNION VALLEY

LOCATION CHEVERLY CIRCLE CHEVERLY, MD

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 3/11/74 MDWYER



Recd from

Ralph Bellamy

Chaverly Town Historian

1/1977

PG. 69-11

Mr. Hope (c. 1815 - approx)  
1841-42; remodeled 1919)  
the Fiddler Magruder house  
at 1 Chaverly Circle,  
in Chaverly, Md. (Prince  
George's County).

Photo 1926 by Robert Marchant  
founder of Chaverly in 1918.  
House used by him as his  
residence from 1918 to  
1929. Mr. Hope on the  
Chaverly Town Symbol,  
Chaverly Chaverly's first  
Mayor, Fred W. East, in  
the year of incorporation,  
1931, to appear on the  
Town Seal. Mr. East  
bought the house in the  
late 1930s and still  
owns it.

- Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr.  
Chaverly Town Historian  
December 1976



PG-69-11

Mount Hope  
Prince George's County  
1926 Robert Marshall photograph  
Neg in possession of Frederick S. DeMarr,  
President of P.G. Co's Historical Society  
4010 Hamilton Street  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20781